

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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RE: Cuban item

Following for your guidance for initial responses should questions be raised with respect to proposal that Acting Secretary General dispatch to Cuba a UN observer corps to assure and report on compliance with resolution calling for immediate dismantling and withdrawal from Cuba of all missiles and other offensive weapons:

1. What does the United States include among the QUOTE offensive weapons UNQUOTE that are to be dismantled and withdrawn from Cuba?

SUGGESTED REPLY:

United States includes under the phrase QUOTE offensive weapons UNQUOTE such weapons as missiles with their associated launchers and pads, combat aircraft capable of delivering nuclear warheads on foreign territory, and the nuclear weapons themselves. We do not preclude the inclusion of other weapons having an offensive capability.

2. What size observer forces will be required?

SUGGESTED REPLY:

The precise size of the observer forces would be a function of the speed with which it was deemed desirable to carry out the operation, as well as of the

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of the number of installations where weapons would need to be dismantled and withdrawn from Cuba. We would think it desirable to accomplish the task as quickly as possible. We are studying this problem now to ascertain the personnel requirements for such an observer corps.

3. What should be the composition of the observer corps - what people would be involved and what would be the general political composition of the corps?

SUGGESTED REPLY:

The observer corps should be comprised so as to assure that no offensive weapons to be dismantled and withdrawn from Cuba will remain. Persons having an intimate knowledge of weapons technology, including military and civilian technicians will be needed. Despite political difficulties it will probably be necessary for the observer corps to have representatives of the United States, the Soviet Union and other countries familiar with advanced weapons technology.

4. Does the United States have in mind observation of the actual dismantling and withdrawal process or merely the despatch of observers after Cuba has asserted that all offensive weapons have been dismantled and withdrawn?

SUGGESTED REPLY:

We believe that the United Nations observer corps should be present during the actual dismantling and withdrawing process, since this would be the least complicated and clearest way of being assured that the dismantling and withdrawal had in fact been carried out and that such weapons were not being hidden temporarily.

5. Exactly

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5. Exactly what would be tasks of the observer corps?

SUGGESTED REPLY:

The observer corps would be divided into teams which would move simultaneously into all areas where offensive weapons to be dismantled might be located. These teams would seek out designated types of weapons, supervise their dismantling and withdrawal, and report to the Secretary-General. They would operate with a minimum of interference to the Cuban people, but must have full access to all sites where designated types of weapons might be located. They would be withdrawn as soon as their mission was accomplished. End questions and suggested replies.

We are continuing to work on further refinement of the detailed organization and function of the observer corps.

END

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